



General Assembly

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Fifty-first session

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its fiftieth session in October 1999, the Executive Committee adopted a decision on the programme of work of the Standing Committee in 2000 (A/AC.96/928, paragraph 24) in which it sets out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee.

2. In accordance with Executive Committee Working Methods adopted at the forty-sixth session (A/AC.96/860, paragraph 32), the Standing Committee held three meetings over the past year: in February/March, July and September 2000. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 1999 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the different agenda items in 2000 (see Annex I). Two additional items on UNHCR's response to the Kosovo emergency and staff safety and security were added during the year. Members of the Executive Committee, in acknowledgment of the need for multi-year planning, also took note of the programme of work of the Standing Committee for the years 2001 and 2002 (Annex 1).

3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each of the meetings of the Standing Committee over the past year is contained in the following reports: A/AC.96/929: *Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Standing Committee (29 February - 2 March 2000)*; A/AC.96/939: *Report of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee (5 - 7 July 2000)*; A/AC.96/943: *Report of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee (27 - 28 September 2000)*.

Issues covered by the Standing Committee in 2000

4. The work undertaken by the Standing Committee included a number of recurrent items. This included reviews of UNHCR's programmes and activities in various regions on the basis of oral strategic updates, allowing the Standing Committee to oversee the evolution of these programmes and the essential challenges for the future. Africa and Central Asia, South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East were reviewed in February/March; and The Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the former Yugoslavia in July.

5. In addition, the Standing Committee considered at each of its meetings regular updates on overall programme and funding issues, through which it was kept abreast of the situation in terms of programme requirements and funding levels. The Standing Committee in February/March also considered UNHCR's



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Medium Term Plan for 2002 to 2005. Following consultations with Members and Observers of the Standing Committee in 1999 and early 2000, a review of the annual programme budget structure was also undertaken at this meeting. In July, the Standing Committee reviewed the pledging conference process and adopted guiding principles applicable to the resourcing of UNHCR's unified budget. In addition, a Global Report on UNHCR's activities in 1999 was considered. In September a Mid-Year Progress Report was presented on UNHCR activities in the first half of 2000.

6. At its various meetings, the Standing Committee also reviewed programme/protection policy issues. In February/March it followed-up on issues arising from the plenary debate on the annual theme in 1999 and considered UNHCR's efforts on behalf of refugee children and adolescents, as well as older refugees. Mainstreaming environmental concerns in refugee operations, statistics, and recent developments in UNHCR's involvement in reintegration, were also discussed in February/March. In addition, the findings of an independent evaluation of UNHCR's response to the Kosovo emergency were presented to the Standing Committee at the same meeting. In July, the Standing Committee reexamined the issue of the economic and social impact of massive refugee populations on host developing countries, as well as other countries. Safety and security of staff as well as the security, civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements were also discussed in July. The safety and security of staff was taken up again at the September meeting of the Standing Committee, following the murders of UNHCR staff in Indonesia and Guinea. In September, the Standing Committee also considered UNHCR's follow-up actions to recommendations of the Kosovo evaluation.

7. In accordance with Executive Committee Working Methods (A/AC.96/865, paragraph 32(d)), the July meeting of the Standing Committee focused particularly on questions of international protection. One and a half day were devoted to consideration of the Note on International Protection (A/AC.96/930), which focused on the operational aspects of international protection. In addition, issues relating to the interception of asylum-seekers and refugees as well as complementary forms of protection were reviewed. A conclusion reflecting the Standing Committee's discussion on international protection is being submitted to the fifty-first session of the Executive Committee for adoption.

8. At each meeting of the Standing Committee during the year, an oral report was provided on coordination issues within the United Nations system. This included information on developments with regard to the Humanitarian Segment of the Economic and Social Council, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs. In addition, an update on UNHCR's planned activities in relation to the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance as well as information on UNHCR's annual meetings with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Organization for Migration was provided.

9. Issues of management, finance, oversight and human resources were reviewed in September. They included a preliminary review of financial and budgetary documentation being submitted to the fifty-first session of the Executive Committee as well as reports submitted on UNHCR's inspection and evaluation activities.

10. In line with Executive Committee working methods (A/AC.96/806), the Standing Committee undertook the selection of the annual theme for the fifty-first session of the Executive Committee during its two sessions in February/March and July, adopting the theme of "UNHCR@50: from response to solutions". In terms of Governance, the Standing Committee also discussed ways of enhancing the plenary session of the Executive Committee and heard oral updates on UNHCR's plans to commemorate its 50th anniversary.

Standing Committee decisions

11. In accordance with the authority vested in it by the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee adopted a number of decisions on matters included in its programme of work. The texts of these decisions are annexed to the reports of the different Standing Committee meetings, as follows:

A/AC.96/929: Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Standing Committee (29 February - 2 March 2000)

- Decision on Programme and Funding
- Decision on Medium-Term Plan
- Decision on Annual Programme Budget
- Conclusion on Older Refugees
- Conclusion on Mainstreaming Environmental Concerns in Refugee Operations

A/AC.96/939: Report of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee (5 - 7 July 2000)

- Decision on Mobilizing Resources for a Unified Budget: The Pledging Conference
- Guiding Principles Applicable to the Resourcing of UNHCR's Unified Budget
- Decision on the Annual Theme of the Fifty-first Session of the Executive Committee

Plenary decisions: preparation of drafts by the Standing Committee

12. On the basis of discussions undertaken in the course of the year, and in accordance with the Executive Committee's working methods, the Standing Committee initiated the preparation of draft decisions and conclusions for submission to the fifty-first session of the Executive Committee. In a series of informal consultations under the chairmanship of the Rapporteur, the following draft decisions and conclusions have been discussed;

- Conclusion on International Protection
- Conclusion on the CIS Conference follow-up
- Decision on Administrative, Financial and Programme matters
- Decision on Safety of Staff of UNHCR and other Humanitarian Personnel
- Decision on the Pledging Conference
- Decision on Government Observer Participation on 2000-2001
- Decision on Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Observer Participation in the work of the Executive Committee and its Standing Committee
- Decision on UNHCR's 50th anniversary and on World Refugee Day
- Decision on Programme of Work of the Standing Committee in 2001
- Decision on the Provisional Agenda of the Fifty-second Session

CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STANDING
COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2000



	17th Meeting 29 February - 2 March	18th Meeting 5 - 7 July	19th Meeting 27 - 28 September
PROGRAMME AND FUNDING	- Overall programme and funding in 1999 and Projections for 2000; oral strategic presentations on: Africa and CASWANAME - Medium Term Plan 2002-2005 - Review of Annual Programme Budget structure	- Update on Annual Programme Budget and funding; oral strategic presentations on: the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and the former Yugoslavia - Global Report	- Annual Programme Budget, including the Report of the ACABQ - Update on funding - Mid-Year Progress Report
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION		- Note on International Protection - Interception - Complementary forms of protection	
PROTECTION/PROGRAMME POLICY	- Follow-up to annual theme - Refugee children - Elderly persons - Environmental issues - Statistics and registration - Reintegration: progress report - Independent evaluation of UNHCR's response to the Kosovo emergency	Economic and social impact of massive refugee populations on host developing countries, as well as other countries	
COORDINATION	Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)	Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC; and preparations for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (oral report)	Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)

	17th Meeting 29 February - 2 March	18th Meeting 5 - 7 July	19th Meeting 27 - 28 September
GOVERNANCE	• Selection of annual theme for the fifty-first Session of the Executive Committee • Revitalization of the format of the Executive Committee • UNHCR's 50th anniversary (oral report)	• Selection of annual theme for the fifty-first session of the Executive Committee	• UNHCR's 50th anniversary (oral report)
MANAGEMENT, FINANCE, OVERSIGHT AND HUMAN RESOURCES		• Follow-up to the Report of the Board of Auditors • Safety and security issues	• Voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner: Accounts for the year 1999 • UNHCR inspection plan and activities • UNHCR evaluation plan and activities • Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 1999 • Measures Taken or Proposed in Response to the Recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors • Update on change management

**Fifty-first session of the Executive Committee
2 - 6 October 2000**

CALENDAR*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STANDING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2001



	20th Meeting January/February	21st Meeting June/July	22nd Meeting September/October
PROGRAMME AND FUNDING	Overall programme and funding in 2000 and projections for 2001; oral strategic presentation on: Africa, Asia and the Pacific and CASWANAME	- Update on Annual Programme Budget and funding; oral strategic presentation on: the Americas, and Europe and the former Yugoslavia - Global Report	- Annual Programme Budget, including the Report of the ACABQ - Update on funding - Mid-Year Progress Report
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION**		- Note on International Protection - Exclusion - One additional protection-specific item to be decided upon	
PROTECTION/PROGRAMME POLICY	- Follow-up to annual theme - Refugee women - Progress report on UNHCR's emergency preparedness and response capacity - Reintegration: progress report - Solutions - Economic and social impact of massive refugee populations on host developing countries, as well as other countries - Internally displaced persons		

* Noted by the Planning Meeting of the Standing Committee on 14 December 1999

** Under this item in June, the Standing Committee will be presented with a progress report on UNHCR activities in the field of statelessness

	20th Meeting January/February	21st Meeting June/July	22nd Meeting September/October
COORDINATION	- Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report) - UNHCR Lead Agency Role	Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)	Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)
GOVERNANCE	Selection of annual theme for the fifty-second session of the Executive Committee	Selection of annual theme for the fifty-second session of the Executive Committee	
MANAGEMENT, FINANCE, OVERSIGHT AND HUMAN RESOURCES	Safety and security issues	Follow-up to the Report of the Board of Auditors	- Voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner: Accounts for the year 2000 - UNHCR inspection plan and activities - UNHCR evaluation plan and activities - Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2000 - Measures Taken or Proposed in Response to the Recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors

Fifty-second session of the Executive Committee
October 2001

CALENDAR*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STANDING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2002



	23rd Meeting January/February	24th Meeting June/July	25th Meeting September/October
PROGRAMME AND FUNDING	Overall programme and funding in 2001 and projections for 2002; oral strategic presentation on: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and CASWANAME	- Update on Annual Programme Budget and funding; oral strategic presentation on: the Americas, and Europe and the former Yugoslavia - Global Report	- Annual Programme Budget, including the Report of the ACABQ - Update on funding - Mid-Year Progress Report
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION		- Note on International Protection - Two protection specific items to be decided upon	
PROTECTION/PROGRAMME POLICY	- Follow-up to annual theme - Refugee children - Economic and social impact of massive refugee populations on host developing countries, as well as other countries		
COORDINATION	Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)	Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)	Update on coordination issues: ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment; IASC/ECHA/ACC (oral report)
GOVERNANCE	Selection of Annual Theme for the fifty-third Session of the Executive Committee	Selection of Annual Theme for the fifty-third Session of the Executive Committee	

* Noted by the Planning Meeting of the Standing Committee on 14 December 1999.

	23rd Meeting January/February	24th Meeting June/July	25th Meeting September/October
MANAGEMENT, FINANCE, OVERSIGHT AND HUMAN RESOURCES		Follow-up to the Report of the Board of Auditors	- Voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner: Accounts for the year 2001 - UNHCR inspection plan and activities - UNHCR evaluation plan and activities - Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2001 - Measures Taken or Proposed in Response to the Recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors

Fifty-third session of the Executive Committee
October 2002

STANDING COMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION ISSUED DURING 2000

17th Meeting (29 February - 2 March)

EC/50/SC/CRP.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
EC/50/SC/CRP.2	Standing Committee Work Programme for 2000
EC/50/SC/CRP.3	Overall Programme and Funding in 1999 and Projections for 2000
EC/50/SC/CRP.4	UNHCR's Medium-Term Plan 2002-2005
EC/50/SC/CRP.5	Review of UNHCR's Budget Structure
EC/50/SC/CRP.5 Add.1	Addendum - Draft Decision on the Annual Programme Budget document
EC/50/SC/CRP.6	Enhancement of the Format of the Executive Committee
EC/50/SC/CRP.7	Refugee Children and Adolescents: a Progress Report
EC/50/SC/CRP.8	Older Refugees: Looking Beyond the International Year of Older Persons
EC/50/SC/CRP.9	Mainstreaming Environmental Concerns in Refugee Operations
EC/50/SC/CRP.10	Statistics and Registration: a Progress Report
EC/50/SC/CRP.11	Reintegration: a Progress Report
EC/50/SC/CRP.12	The Kosovo Refugee Crisis: an Independent Evaluation of UNHCR's Emergency Preparedness and Response
EC/50/SC/INF.1	Strengthening UNHCR's Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity

18th Meeting (5 -7 July)

EC/50/SC/CRP.13	Draft Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Standing Committee (29 February - 2 March 2000)
EC/50/SC/CRP.14	Mobilizing Resources for a Unified Budget: the Pledging Conference
EC/50/SC/CRP.15	Provisional Annotated Agenda
EC/50/SC/CRP.16	Note on International Protection
EC/50/SC/CRP.17	Interception of Asylum-Seekers and Refugees: The International Framework and Recommendations for a Comprehensive Approach

- EC/50/SC/CRP.18 Complementary Forms of Protection: their Nature and Relationship to the International Refugee Protection Regime
- EC/50/SC/CRP.19 Overall Programme and Funding Projections for 2000
- EC/50/SC/CRP.21 Social and Economic Impact of Massive Refugee Populations on Host Developing Countries, as well as Other Countries
- EC/50/SC/CRP.22 Guiding Principles applicable to the Resourcing of UNHCR's Unified Budget Proposed Budget Structure
- EC/50/SC/INF.2 UNHCR's Policy on Internally Displaced Persons
- EC/50/SC/INF.3 Safety and Security of Staff
- EC/50/SC/INF.4 The Security, Civilian and Humanitarian Character of Refugee Camps and Settlements: Operationalizing the "Ladder of Options"

19th meeting (27-28 September)

- EC/50/SC/CRP.20 Follow-up on the Actions Taken to implement the Recommendations of the Board of Auditors in its Report for the year ended 31 December 1998
- EC/50/SC/CRP.23 Draft Report of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee
(5 -7 July 2000)
- EC/50/SC/CRP.24 Provisional Annotated Agenda
Rev.1
- EC/50/SC/CRP.25 Update on Change Management
- EC/50/SC/INF.5 Follow-up to Recommendations of Kosovo evaluation
- EC/50/SC/INF.6 UNHCR's Organizational Oversight and Performance Review Framework